

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated July 20, 2005. Claims 1-6 and 8 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected. In this Amendment, Claims 1-6 and 8 were amended and claims 13-18 were added. Claims 1-6 and 8 and 13-18 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-6, 8 and 13-18 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Interview

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Lavinder for his time during an October 6, 2005 interview.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enabling requirement.

Claims 1-6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enabling requirement.

As discussed during the October 6, 2005 interview, Examiner stated that the elimination of “is flat” from claim 5 and an amendment to claim 1 changing the whereby clause to state the band is seen through the openings would overcome the 112, first paragraph rejections.

Applicant has made the above changes and now believes the 112 rejections should be traversed.

Drawings

The feature reciting “the flat on the second portion” and “the solid inner surface defining an opening” was cancelled from the claims 5 and 1, respectively.

Accordingly, the objection to drawings should be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejection

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moldenhauer (US Patent Number 1,936,604).

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moldenhauer (US Patent Number 1,936,604).

As discussed during the October 6th interview, Examiner agreed that "the addition of the term "unobstructed" to the plurality of openings, i.e., the plurality of unobstructed openings would overcome the prior art rejection."

Applicant therefore has amended claim 1 to include the limitation "a plurality of unobstructed openings." Accordingly, Applicant believes that independent claim 1 is patentable over Moldenhauer.

Claims 2-6, 8 and new claims 13-18 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Moldenhauer, claims 2-6, 8 and 13-18 are believed to be patentable over Moldenhauer on the basis of their dependency on claim 1.

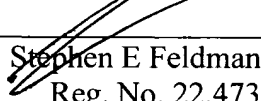
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully submitted,
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